



February 16, 2011

TESTIMONY ON RAISED BILL No. 6321
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Senator Bye, Senator Willis, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, the Eastern CT Workforce Board (EWIB) recognizes that unemployed and under employed residents of Eastern Connecticut often do not have the academic skills needed to be successful at Connecticut Community Colleges. This was clear as we planned and submitted EWIB's Adult Literacy Plan this past fall to the CT Employment and Training Commission (CETC).

Working with EASTCONN, and their collaborators, Norwich and New London Adult Education programs, we have been able to offer a variety of workshops at all four *CTWorks*-East Career Centers (Danielson, New London, Norwich and New London) for our job seekers. These workshops include: Education Refresher, Basic Math Skills, Foundations of Algebra, Reading and Writing Foundations, and the Adult Learner's Guide to College Success. We have served over 200 adults in the last year in these programs as they prepare for job training or employment.

With the high unemployment rate in Eastern Connecticut, and our limited resources, we support House Bill 6321, an Act Concerning a College Transition Pilot Program and encourage you to include EASTCONN as the lead agency in Eastern Connecticut as a pilot site for Bill 6321.

Sincerely,

John Beauregard
Executive Director